

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
PROCLAMATION

EO 97-03

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME — GREETINGS:

AN EXECUTIVE ORDER TO ESTABLISH THE GOVERNOR'S STEERING COMMITTEE ON ABSTINENCE EDUCATION.

WHEREAS, the State of Arkansas has one of the highest rates of teenage pregnancies and out-of-wedlock births in the nation; and

WHEREAS, teenage parents are more prone to drop out of school, to live in poverty and enter the welfare system; and

WHEREAS, teenage parent welfare dependents cost the state millions of dollars in public assistance; and

WHEREAS, reducing the number of teenage pregnancies and out-of-wedlock births in the state could result in increased federal funding for welfare reform, thereby alleviating some burden on state financial resources; and

WHEREAS, abstinence education has proven to be an effective tool for teenage pregnancy prevention;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mike Huckabee, acting under the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Arkansas, do hereby order:

1. The establishment of the Governors Steering Committee on Abstinence Education to serve as an Advisory Body to the Governor and the Health Department; and
2. This Committee is to be composed of individuals knowledgeable in the area of abstinence education; and
3. Membership of the Committee shall be appointed by the Governor as needed, one of which will serve as Chair; and
4. If a vacancy on the committee should occur, it will be filled by appointment by the Governor; and
5. The Committee has the authority to organize itself in any appropriate manner deemed reasonable to reduce the high rates of teenage pregnancies and out-of-wedlock births in the state.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed at the Capitol in Little Rock on this 20th day of June in the year of our Lord, nineteen hundred ninety-seven.



GOVERNOR MIKE HUCKABEE

SECRETARY OF STATE SHARON PRIEST